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L E T T E R

From a MEMBER of the
Parliament of Scotland,

TO his FRIEND at LONDON,
CONCERNING

Their Late A C T

For Establishing a

C O M P A N Y

Of that KINGDOM Trading to

Africa and the Indies.

Quid vetat ? *Ridentem dicere verum,*
Horat.

Contraria Juxta se posita clarius elucescunt.

L O N D O N,

Printed, and are to be Sold by *John Whitlock* near *Stationers-Hall*, and the Bookellers of *London and Westminster*, 1695.

At the Court of the Admiralty, London, 25th May 1861. *Reflect on Poems on Mariner & Answer to Rhinoceros* Ex-

T E L L E R

TO THE EDITOR OF THE

Illustrations of the

MODERN LITERATURE

CONCERNING

THEIR RIGHT

TO THE EDITOR

COMBAY

OF THE KIDNEY

and the right

TO THE EDITOR

CONCERNING THE

MODERN

Illustrations of the MODERN LITERATURE

LETTER

From a MEMBER of the

Parliament of Scotland

To his Friend at LONDON,

Concerning their late ACT, for Establishing a Company of that Kingdom, Trading to Africa and the Indies.

SIR,

THE Account you give me by your last, of the various Shapes into which some Persons at London have Transformed our late Act of Parliament, for Establishing a *Company Trading to Africa and the Indies*, and their representing it under so many several Colours, to those of different Capacities and Affections, puts me in mind of the Shepherd, who, ambitious to be thought Weatherwise, never fall'd with an air of Gravity, to publish his pretended Revelations of the ensuing Weather, in various and quite contrary manners to his several Profelites, thereby securing to himself certain Evidences in all Weathers that could happen, if any should dare to call the Infallibility of his Predictions into question. And really, The exact Idea you give me of the manner in which these Persons seem to busy themselves in other Mens Affairs, affords me matter sufficient to renew my Speculation, concerning the precarious Nature of all Mankind, in point of Interest; and by Retrospection into some Transactions of this and the last Age, I am induced to trouble you with the following Narrative of some Observations naturally arising from the same, which to me seem directly to point at the Temper, Inclination, and real Interest of all *BRITAIN*: But before I launch into so wide an Ocean, I cannot forbear expressing the Satisfaction I have in Reflecting, That the whole Representatives of a Nation so little experienced in Trade, as ours, should with so unanimous a Voice (*Nemine contradicente*) agree to such Measures and Foundation of Trade, as now seem worth the Notice of so great a People as our Neighbouring Nation; and my Satisfaction therein is still the more exalted, by finding in your Account, That the most

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Sober and Trading People of that Kingdom, are so far from conceiving any disgust at, or dislike to it, that they generally express an Inclination to be concerned in it : Excepting (as you observe) a few who (every body knows) are preingaged to a dear Self-monopolising Interest, together with some few others, whose Instructions from a Foreign Court must in all probability oblige them to lay hold of any seeming Opportunity for blowing the Coal of Sedition in this Island, that they may fish in troubled Waters : And as a little Leaven leaveneth the whole Lump, you must always expect to find such Persons very vigilant, by their Emiffaries, to amuse the Uatching Crowd with groundless Apparitions ; and by a more industrious Artifice, have their designing Insinuations buz'd into the Ears of some great Ministers, who, having the bent of their Thoughts employed about Matters of State and Government, suitable to the great Sphere in which they move, may possibly, through want of Time, consider this Matter no further than by a bare superficial View of such fallacious Positions as may probably, by Prepossession, be dogmatically obtruded upon them, to serve private Ends, though mask'd under the specious Pretences of a National Concern. . . . Wherefore, I hope those worthy Gentlemen at *London*, who are concerned in this Company, will endeavour to anticipate any evil Effect of these or the like Misrepresentations and groundless Suggestions mention'd in your *Letter*, by obviating the Fallacy of such noisive Arguments as (you say) are daily with an Ayre of Magisterial Stiffness dicat'd at *Garraways*, and from thence diffus'd amongst the credulous Multitude ; which, whensoever impartially examin'd and considered, will doubtless appear to have no other Merit at bottom, than a Noose of Sophistry to catch Woodcocks in. For there was never any Constitution of Trade concerted by any Free Kingdom, State or Commonwealth in *Europe*, with greater regard to the Constitutions and Privileges of all other Nations in Amity with His Majesty, than this hath been : yea, should we have had a Committee of English Merchants to Examine and Report our Proceedings while we were Passing this A C T, they could not possibly have been more nicely tender of Encroaching upon, or Interfering with the English Immunities, either Abroad or at Home, than we have been. And in regard that Piracy, Hostility, and all manner of violent Force, is not only inconsistent with, but diametrically opposit to the natural Lawes and Institutions of Trade, we have, in the Body of this A C T, precluded the *Company* from Acting or Setling in the very *Indies*, without Consent of the Natives. And, in short, we had then the Law of Nations so immediately under our Consideration, that

that it was thought by the most Precarious of our Assembly, we had left no room for so much as a possibility of Cavilling. But there's none so blind as they who will not see; and by what you write, I find, had there been any thing in our *Act* that could not bear the Tryal of the strictest Enquiry on the aforesaid Heads, it had certainly been long ere now ripe up and printed in Capital Letters by those who were at the Trouble and Expence of Reprinting the *Act* at *London* in several Shapes, and under a new Title of their own framing, of design to adapt it more properly to the Notion of Rivalship and Emulation, which (you say) they so industriously preach in Coffee-houses.

Obj. Oh! but (say they,) Tho' there be nothing in the *Act* that at present may seem to interfere with, yet in the Consequence it may prove pernicious to the Interest of *England*.

In Answer to which, give me leave to observe, That as this *Act* was calculated for a Common and Publick Good; so though it be a received and standing Maxim, That *No Evil is to be done, that Good may come of it*; yet no reasonable Man will urge from thence the Alternative, *That we ought to forbear doing an apparent Publick Good, because of a remote possibility of an imaginary Evil Consequence*.

And before I step further, pray let us take a short View of what Prospect there may be of this bug-bearing Consequence. Why, truly *Scotland* propoeth an Advantage by Foreign Trade, and leaves it at *England's* door to accept or refuse, being concerned for one Moiety of all the Profits, Emoluments and Advantages arising from such Trade; and by the bye, *England's* embracing that Offer, seems to me an auspicious Prognostick of future Success. Now, should we happen to be frustrate in our Expectation by this Trade, then all the vain Jealousies of Rivalship and Competition fall of course. But if it should (as I hope it may) answer our Wishes, by a plentiful and prosperous Harvest, in return to our Honest and Instant Undertaking, *England*, sure, would be mightily hurt, to reap One Half of all the Profits thereof; which I pray God may prove the happy Consequence, so much fear'd by your Monopoly-men.

Yet all this (you say) cannot please them that are resolved to be implacable; for that there are a certain sort of such good-natur'd Christians in the World, as would chuse rather to lose a certain Benefit and Advantage to themselves, than endure the very thoughts of seeing their Neighbours in any tolerable degree of equal Prosperity. In allusion to which,

'tis no new thing to tell you, That ever since the Reformation of Religion, the Jesuits, in their various shapes, have left no means unessayed, to propogate the several Sects and Schisms which, during the last Age, have, like a general Contagion, overspread this Island; and undoubtedly gave the first rise to all the sad Catastrophe and dismal Consequences of the late bloody Civil Wars. And even so, since the Union of both Kingdoms under one Monarchy, we have too too manifest and pregnant Proof of how far the *Machevillian* Maxims of Policy have, by the means of *French* Pensioners and Emisaries, gain'd credit enough at the Court of *England*, to improve the Remnants and Dregs of the ancient Feuds of both Kingdoms into an almost avowed Reason of State (though a much mistaken one) *That it was the Interest of England, to suppress and keep Scotland poor.* Which was indeed chiefly intended and contrived with design to leave *England* in the lurch, and carry on the real Interest of *France*, where this Maxim had its birth, by regaining *Scotland* into their ancient League.

For the Sting and hidden Poison of the Serpent lay in this, That the People of *Scotland*, from the natural consideration they must needs have of any severe Treatment, or unreasonable and intollerable Exactions imposed upon them by their domineering Neighbourhoods, might in time be tempted, like the *Israelites* in the Wilderness, to *murmur and look back into the Onions, Melons, Garlick, and Figs-pots of their old acquaintance.*

Yet by the Influence of this Jesuitical, Barbarous and Hellish Principle, together with the general Corruption of such col-leaguing and self-designing Ministers as have (to the grief of these Nations) been at the Helm of Affairs during those latter Reigns, this poor Nation in particular hath been most unmercifully cramped and fetter'd in its natural Liberties, both as to Religion, Property, Trade, and indeed, all the real Badges of a Free and independent Kingdom, other than in shadow; till the late Providential and Happy Revolution gave us not only a fair opportunity of resuming all our ancient Freedoms, and natural Liberties, but also of extending the same, in point of Trade, far beyond those Limits which some of our Neighbours seem now unwilling to allow Us.

And I would gladly offer it to the serious Consideration of any Honest, Unbiass'd and Free-thinking *English-man*, Whether, upon His present Majesty's Accession to the Crown of *England*, when *Ireland* was in a manner quite lopp'd off, *France* making mighty Preparations for War, all *Europe* envelop'd in almost unquenchable Flames; and *England* it self, not free from intestine Divisions, and Bosom Enemies, who flatter'd themselves

themselves with the Hopes that *Scotland* would, from the consideration of its being so long kept at Arms-length, be tempted to act by an Interest separate from that of *England* ? Whether (I say) upon condition of assurance then, that we would follow *England's* Example, in placing the Crown of this Realm upon the Heads of our present Gracious Sovereign, and and His late Royal Consort (of Blessed Memory,) when they fear'd our Demurring upon it, *England* would not have willingly fulfilled, and put us in possession of the long promised Union of both Nations ; and settled the same upon such an equal and lasting Foundation, as that we might have freedom of Trading into the very Heart of their Plantations ?

For, how little forever the apparent Proportion be, which our Nation may at present seem to bear on the Theatre of Publick Action, as being in a manner wholly eclipsed by the resplendent and radiant Beams of *England's* more resplendent Greatness, I may without Hyperbole justly say, That as Matters then stood, We had the Ballance of *Europe* in our Hands.

Yet all the Considerations we had in view of our own particular Interest, and the Advantages which we might have made of that Opportunity, soon gave way to the irresistible Zeal and Affection which we had for the Restorer of the Protestant Religion, and common Liberties of *Britain*. For, lest that by any Delays in our Proceedings, the Measures of *England* might be protracted, We did, in almost One Breath, Declare the Throne Vacant, our Selves a Free, Independent State, Their Royal Highnesses King and Queen of this Realm, and war against all Their Majesty's Enemies ; as not in the least doubting, but that such our generous and frank Proceeding, with respect to our Neighbours, at so critical a Juncture of Affairs, might in due time reasonably plead for a grateful Resentment from the King and Parliament of *England*, by an equally generous Condescension, on their side, to our having the same freedom of Trade, by which, but a little time before, the wisest and most leading Men of that Nation thought it their Interest to have secured our Affection.

And that this was the fence of the Court of *England* at that time, needs no further Evidence than His Majesty's two successive *Speeches* to both Houses of His First Parliament ; wherein the consideration of an intire Union with *Scotland* was seriously recommended : In order to which, some Schemes were prepared and consulted by certain Noble Patriots of both Nations.

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But no sooner had we, in the interim, solemnly consumed, in manner aforesaid, all that *England* could have either wish'd or fear'd from us on that Occasion; but of a sudden, all thoughts of such Union fell to the ground; so that being left to chew our Cud upon that melancholy Proverb, *Poss est occasio calva*, which in our Dialect may be render'd, *A True Scotchman is Wise behind-hand*; our next and only Remedy was, to make the best of a bad Marker. In order to which, we then Resolved to think of framing such wholsom and advantageous Lawes for the Advancement of our poor Trade, as might not only rouse up and animate the depressed and often-disappointed Genius of our fellow-Natives, but also invire and endure Strangers more experienced in Trade, to embarque upon the same bottom with us: and to that end, We did, in the Third Session of this current Parliament, Anno 1693, Pass a Preliminary Act, conceived in general Terms, for the Encouragement of *Foreign Trade*, which you see narrated in the beginning of this last Act: By the gracious and necessary Concessions of which, we have a plain Demonstration, through the Vertue of those Noble and worthy Patriots whom His Majesty's discerning Eye singled out of the Crowd of Pretenders to the Offices of State, That our present King is not only *Pater Patriæ*, but *Pater Patriarum*; and, like the true Emblem of that immense Deity whose Anointed he is, diffuseth his Favours with a more unconfined and universal Influence, than any of our late Kings of *Britain*; Their natural Easiness of Temper giving many fatal Opportunities to the mercenary Ministers of those Times, both to impose on their Masters, and prey upon the Liberties of their fellow-Subjects: whereas, our present King doth not only penetrate into what is just, but hath also a Nobleness of Soul, to execute, with an impartial Hand, what to him seemeth to be so. And, that the giving his Royal Sanction to this Act, was the effect both of his Justice and Gratitude, is plain from the natural Regard which in Reason we must needs suppose him to have had to our frank and seasonable Services, when in themselves, they were most Valuable, and when indeed he stood most in need of them.

Obj. But (you say) the Out-cry is, That these are such unprecedented Concessions and ^{Extraordinary} Exceptions as never were, or ought to be granted by a Prince to any Society or Company of Traders in the World: *Engo*, ———

Hah ! Is the Hue and Cry got up then ? I am glad of it ; For certainly, the Great, the Grave, and Wise Men of the Nation, do never joyn in that Chorus.

But to be more serious ; 'Tis true, that these Concessions may seem somewhat strange to a People whose Wealth, Capacity, Naval Strength, Foreign Possessions, Plantations, Forts, and Universal Settlements, want no more to carry on what Trade soever they please, than to will and to execute.

But on the other hand, if they look upon *Scotland*, and consider it, as in it self it is, deficient to a degree of Extremity, in all the necessary Qualifications of Trade above-recited ; they must own of course, that nothing less than these Concessions and Exemptions could give this *New Company* a prospect of so much as a Possibility of ever grappling with such infinite and almost insuperable Difficulties as they (and indeed, all other Beginnings) must necessarily encounter with : so that if such Exemptions had not been granted, we had as good have erected no *Company*.

And as to these Concessions being without Precedent, I will not pretend to give an Instance of any that are exactly the same with the Privileges contained in this *Act* : but if I let you see much greater, I hope that may serve the turn. Nor to do that, need I go so far from ~~Heads~~^{Heads}, as to search into the Records of other Nations, such as *France*, *Holland*, *Denmark*, and others who have given illimited Trading Powers, and vast Encouragements to their respective Trading Companies ; but even in *Scotland*, when we could not be presumed to have had any great Notions of Trade, about Thirty five Years past, upon the Restauration of King *Charles II.* in his First Parliament, and the several Sessions thereof, (before the French King had time to plant his Janizaries in the Court of *England*;) there were several *Acts* Pass'd in favour of Trade and Manufactories, with Privileges and Exemptions far exceeding any in this *Act*, with respect to the Purposes for which they were granted, *Mutatis Mutandis*.

And that I may not seem to speak altogether without Book, I shall give you an Instance of one for all ; namely, the *Act* Pass'd, in the Year 1661, for the *Fishings*, and *Erecting of Companies for Promoting the same* ; which being too long to be transcribed, I send you, by way of *Postscript*, a short Abstract of the most considerable Privileges and Exemptions therein contained, as they stand in order, in the *Act* it self ; and all these were Granted for Perpetuity : Whereas, all the most Important Concessions in this late *Act* are limited, some to Ten, some to Twenty one Years ; in which time (God knows) we

must run very fast, to come up with any of all our neighbouring Nations, who have started so long before Us.

Now let us further compare both the said *Acts*, and the Purposes for which they were severally intended, and then, with respect to this last, we must think of going we know not whither, undergo the Danger of boisterous Storms, and long Voyages, with which we are not acquainted : tie up our Stomachs to strict, regular, and unaccustomed Diets ; prepare against the Effects of quite contrary Climates, and there purchase Plantations, Colonies, Settlements, and build Forts, &c. Yet as to the Time when all this will happen, he must be a wiser Man than I, that can tell.

But as to the former *Act for the Fishing*, &c. all Matters thereunto relating were to be transacted in view of our own Doors, and in our own Power. But then you'll ask me, How it came to pass, that this excellent Constitution for our Fishings has had no better Effect ? Why truly, I'll tell you, For the very same Reason which may possibly prove the Overthrow of this New Undertaking (which God forbid) if we have no better luck in getting honest Men at the Head of it : For the *Dutch*, who have got most of their Wealth by Fishing in other Mens Waters, looking upon us then with a jealous Eye, found a way (as it was then believ'd) to create a certain Great Man in the Fish ; who thereupon embarked himself, and all his Friends, with all his Might, on our Bottom ; and who being once at the Head of all, thwarted all, over-ru'd all, and ruin'd all : For the Honest and Well-meaning Men, finding themselves no other than Cyphers, grew wearied, and so gave up the Gudgeon.

By all which, you have a plain Demonstration and Proof, That what may do in one Nation, will not do in another. But I'm resolv'd to wait with Patience, and hope for the best : *Exitus assis probat* ; the meaning of which is in English, *The Proof of the Pudding is in the Eating*.

Obj. But then (you say,) The unanswerable and thundering *Dilemma*, which these Crumblers would seem, and do actually boast, to fasten upon His Majesty, is, That either he must retract what he has done, by some publick Mark of his Discountenancing this *New Company*, or otherwise he cannot in reason deny the like Concessions to the several Trading Companies of *England*, who have so largely contributed towards the Expence of this present War.

Ans. This

Answer. This is truly the most plausible Difficulty of all that's offer'd, and such a Noose as may readily catch Larks, but will never gravel the judicious part of Mankind more than any of the former, as being all of one piece. The better to obviate which, I shall give you a plain, case, just and adequate Parallel in the like Case. As for Example: Supposing me Lord of a considerable Mannour producing abundance of Corn, Hay, Fruit, and having all the marks of a fertile and well-cultivated Soil, which I have Lett to Farm for a certain Annual or Yearly Rent; which Rent I have, by Contract of Marriage, appropriated to the Payment of my Wife's Joynture: in the interim, there comes to me an Undertaker, with a Proposal, That whereas I am also Proprietor of a certain piece of unprofitable, waste Ground, together with some Acres of Land quite under Water, both which yield me no Rent; he will engage, at his own Hazard, Labour and Expence, to cultivate the one, and drain the other, providing I grant him a Lease thereof free of all Rent for Twenty one Years; to which I readily and reasonably assent, as foreseeing the Advantage that must thereby accrue, if not to my self immediately, yet to my Heirs and Successors. Upon the executing of which Lease, should he who Farm'd my Principal Mannour in manner aforesaid, come and tax me of being an exacting and partial Landlord; if I would not also let him sit Rent-free, as well as his new Neighbour-Undertaker; Pray, what Regard do you think I ought to observe to any Demand that were grounded only upon such a Reason? The Application whereof is so easy and natural, that it were calling your Judgment into question, to exparte any more upon that Head: Yet lest you may say that *omne finitum est dissimile*, and think this to be only an indirect Answer to all the Parts of your *Objection*, I shall touch them severally.

And, First, As to any publick Mark of His Majesty's Discountenance to this *New Company*, which would be the doing and undoing of a thing with the same breath, is so tender a Point, that the very Thoughts of it is attacking and wounding His Majesty, at once, in two of his most peculiar Attributes, *Wisdom in Council*, and *Graciousness of Resolutions*.

Then as to what Concessions may be advisable to be given to all or any of the Trading Companies of *England*, I must suspend my weak Judgment therein, the King, and ensuing Parliament, being the only proper Judges thereof; only thus far I'll venture to judge, That whoever audaciously dare pretend to anticipate the Sense of so Great and August an Assembly, by Dictating in Coffee-houses what his Arrogance thinks,

thinks, forsooth, they ought to do, may likewise think himself well come off at last, if he escape with only a Reprimand.

And then as to the last Branch of the *Objection*, which seems to point at, *our not contributing, so largely as they have, towards the Expence of the War*; let us consider, whether they think Us equally concerned? and whether We may expect a proportionable share of the Glory and Advantage? If not, then we are but Auxiliaries, and ought not to undergo any narrow scrutiny on that head: For, *A given Horse ought not to be examin'd in the Month.*

But supposing (as indeed I think) We are equally concern'd in the same Common Cause; it must be confess'd, That we cannot boast of any great store of Wealth, (for which we may partly thank those Familiar Spirits of *France*, who by a Legerdemain Trick of *Hocus Poens*, have too often assumed the shapes of Court-Cards, in the most considerable Games which have (till of late Years) been play'd on the English Stage;) yet, in Proportion to what our Strength was, in any tolerable measure, able to bear, we have always signified our good Inclination, by giving such Supplies, from time to time, as have not only rais'd very considerable Numbers of excellent Troops, but also Maintain'd the same, till call'd out of the Nation by His Majesty; and then we successively rais'd others, to be a constant Nursery for the English Army. This was: all we could do; and could we have done more, we stood in need of no Spurr to do it: The *Widow's Mite* in the Gospel was more acceptable to Our Saviour, than all the large Offerings of those who gave only out of the Abundance of their Superfluities: *Of them to whom much hath been given, much shall be required.* And if His Majesty should question us upon this head, we can justly answer him with a Scripture Phrase, *Silver and Gold have we none; but such as we have, we give unto him.* True Hearts, and Valiant Hands; Brave Trusty Lads, arm'd with Natural Buff, who dare encounter Fire and Smoke, and whose Undaunted Resolution and Valour, upon all Occasions of Tryal, have, to the Diminution of their Number, given at least some small Addition to the Advancing Glory of the English Arms: which if we had not given, an equal Number of equal Troops from any of our most entirely beloved Confederate Princes (if any such they had to spare) would certainly be good Meat, but must needs have cost *England* very dear Sauce.

And since I now treat of our Usefulness to *England*, how little soever they may value it; I shall beg leave to look back again upon the further Motives that induc'd us to be forward
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in making this Act; and take also a true view of the advantages that may probably arise, not only unto our Selves, but to *England* in general; by it.

As to the First of these, we observed, That the Customs, Fashions, and Luxury of other Nations, having bewitch'd our Travelling Nobility and Gentry, had introduced a certain kind of Necessity among us, of using and consuming many more and greater quantities of Foreign Commodities than were so much as ever known almost to the honest Simplicity of our plain and wise Fore-Fathers, and more truly than we had superfluous Money to pay for; especially at such exorbitant Rates as are impos'd upon us at the third, fourth, fifth, and (possibly) sixth hand; by our own Pedlars, and the exacting Brokers of all other Countries about us. This we see a growing Evil, and such as we could not justly answer for, to our Constituents, who were equally concerned, if we had not taken it into our most serious Consideration, and with all expedition apply'd the most effectual Remedy we could think of; which, after all our Consultations, and the best Advice we could have, terminatèd in this Act; as hoping thereby, that at some time or other we may, by degrees, come to have at first Hand, and upon an equal Lay, such Foreign Commodities as are now palm'd upon us.

By all which, you may plainly see, we had no sinister Design; we meant no harm to any other Kingdom, State, or Company: *Evil to them that Evil think*: We had no thoughts of wresting our Neighbours Garden, but of watering our own; and I have no reason to doubt, but that the Simplicity and Honesty of our Intention therein, will upon all occasions meet with a suitable Return.

And as to what further Advantages *England* may probably reap from this Act; I think, with submission, that of all sorts of Men, the *English East-India Company* hath least reason to murmur at it; and I am glad to hear the Wisdom of them do not, nor indeed, any of them (I believe) at their Heart, For, whatsoever Concessions, Exemptions, or Establishment, the Wisdom of the ensuing Parliament may think fit to grant to that Company, they have reason enough, from the consideration of their own Mismanagement, which (I humbly presume) occasion'd the late Treatment some of them had at *Westminster*, to ground the best part of their Hopes for better Treatment there at this time, upon the Emulation which Our Act hath seemingly entic'd them to raise in the Hearts of their Friends in Parliament, whom I heartily wish to be many: *Salvo Jure consuetudinis*. For I am sure, the World is spacious enough to

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than either another either, or both of them, are able to put in execution. They may, in time, be serviceable each for the other, *Marks Minimum fructus*; and as I hope, the *English Company* may have reason, before the Determination of the ensuing Session, to Thank the King and Parliament. They will at the same time be pleas'd to remember, that *they owe me a Day in Harveſt*; that is, some reasonable piece of Friendship.

Now, if the ensuing Parliament do (as I believe they will) take the *East-India Company* into their Care, whether out of a particular Regard to the said Company, or with respect to the Interest of the whole Nation, or out of Emulation, from a mix'd Consideration of both; I shall have infinite Satisfaction, to find that we are so far useful to our Neighbours, as to let them see that to be their Interest now, which for some Years past they at least seem'd to have overlooked, till we put them in mind of it. And my Hopes are, That if Emulation will once enter within the Doors of that Noble Assembly, they will raise their Thoughts upon the very Wings of Emulation, and *take the right Sow by the Lugge*; that is, cast their Eyes about them, and point at Objects worthy of such Noble Efforts as They only are able to put in Practice, by curbing the Enemies of *Britain*, and putting some stop to the Career and overgrown Ornaments of its Rivals in Trade, of whose Affection or Friendship *England* can be no longer secure, than they are sure of Gaining by *England*. Whereas, We poor Mortals must at all times look upon our selves as in the State of Mortality, For *better far worse*: So that if we are not allowed some reasonable measure of *Due Benevolence*, that Essential Part of Conjugal Duty, the World will certainly look upon Us as the more excusable, if at some time or other we should venture to peep abroad.

Object. But still these Grumblers (you say) do urge that this *New Company* will steal vast Quantities of Goods both by Sea and Land into *England*, and overstock the Markets there with *Indian Goods*, to be Sold at Under-rates, to the apparent loss of the *English East-India* and *African* Companies.

This is truly a very wide supposition; yet supposing it all to be true, (as I believe it cannot) pray wherein is *England* hurt by it? For over all *England* there must be a vast many more Buyers than Sellers of any one particular Commodity, and as *Of two Evils the less is to be chosen*; so, *Of two interfering Interests, the most publick and universal good of these two is always preferable to the other*; then beyond dispute, the Buyers of such particular Commodity (whom I take to be the Body of the Nation) will find it their Interest at all times, to beat down the

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Forfeitures of both Nations, were very much obliged to make: so many Laws, which stand yet Unappealed, against the Forfealling of Markets, and the Engrossing of Commodities into few hands. So that if all Restrictions, Limitations, and Prohibitions upon Trade between both Nations were wholly abrogated, the great and natural ends of Trade, would (in my humble opinion) be more universally and much better answered.

Now, upon summing up the Evidence on both sides, I find we must rectort upon many Enemies beyond-Sea: But I hope I may modestly conclude, That after a true Scrutiny is made, this Act will meet with no Enemies within the Isle of Britain, but who may be comprehended in one or other of two sorts, and these Two (some say) very near related: The first are, such who may seemingly grumble at this Act, for no other reason, but to make a Scaling-ladder of it, to a Wall which (without it) they were past all hopes of ever getting over. The others are, a certain set of Men, who (like Water-men) row one way, and look another. From both which, I hope, the Legislative Power and Government of both Nations will protect this Orphan.

To Conclude then: As Almighty God, in his All-wise Providence, often revealeth and brings to pass his Great and Excellent Purposes, by ordinary and unexpected Means; who knows, but that the harmonious Unity which (I hope) will appear in the Equal, just, and Impartial Management and Administration of this New Scotch-Engish, or Engish-Scotch Indian Company, may, in good time, be a happy Motive and Inducement to (at least) all the Wise Men of either Nation, to lay aside misplaced Passion, the Prejudices of Infancy and Education; Reason justly for their Own and Publick Interests sake; obliterate and bury in oblivion the distinguishing Names of Scotch and Engish; and then voluntarily list themselves under the United Banner of Undivided Britain; to be one in Interest, and Inclination, in Offence and Defence. From the Consequences of which happy Day, we may date the Rise of BRITAIN's being Truly GREAT. And pray, what should hinder it? Nature seems to have intended Us for One People, as having concentrated us within the same Liquid Walls; we are the Subjects of One King; we speak the same Language, differing only in Dialect, as most Countries do; we profess the same Religion, differing only in some Forms, which may or may not be; our Lawes point at the same End, to distribute Justice, and defend Liberty and Property: All which may be soon reconciled, if the Wisdoms of both Nations should once heartily set about it. No Man alive can have greater Veneration for the Govern-

ment

any the least advantage of Office, than my self: But if any particular Person will, from the Light within him, apply to his own Breast any Expression herein that may seem harsh, chat's his fault, and not mine: In which case, I'd advise him, like a Friend, to the still and the quiet: to expiate for any former Escapes in his Life, by a better Regulation of his Actions in time to come: I submit to all Laws and Ordinances of such as are put in Authority over us; and let the Wisdom of the Nation Rule the Nation: As for therein: I have not answered your Expectation, yet you have an Influence of my hearty and sincere good Wishes to the Interest of *Liberty*, and of my readiness to comply with your Desire, whenever you are pleas'd to Command,

Yours humble Servant,

S I R,

EDINBURGH: at 30 to 1

Your Humble Servant,

(nom. 137. W. 2. 11) PHILONAX VERAX.

An Abstract of the Privileges contained in the Acts (men-
tioned in the said Act, pag. 7.) for the Fishing, &c.

SALVAGE, HEMP, CORN, PITCH, TURP, CLAPHORD, MANIPLE, SKEWBOPS and
OD, NEAR, FISH, or other Ingredients whatsoever.

All Herring and White Fish taken and prepared therewith, free of any man-
ner of Taxation or Burden in the Exportation of the same.

All Strangers concerned therein, Naturalized of course, and also free of all
Taxation upon their other Effects, for the space of Seven Years next after such
their Naturalization.

All Boats, Sails, Strong-waters, and other Provisions for Out-reeking of any Vessel
for the said Fishing, free of all manner of Impositions whatsoever.

All Lords, and proprietors of Land, in all Places throughout the Kingdom
where such Fishing is carried on, to protect, maintain and defend the same, and
all Masters of Ships, Fishers, and others whatsoever thereto belonging, from
all burthens, trouble, or otherwise, to refund and satisfy respectively all Loss and
Damage sustained upon their Land.

All Ships, Boats, and other Vessels, in the exercise of the said Trade of Fish-
ing, and their employment therein, no ways Assessable by any Ordinance: The
Fishers, Masters and Servants in the said Vessels, during the whole time and
space of such Fishing, and their employment therein, free from all Actions of
Debt, and no way, exceptible before any Judge or Judicature whatsoever, for
any Cause or Causes Civil, which might be intended against them: and generally
all the said Persons, Masters and Servants, free of all Captions, Arrestments, or
other Disturbances with their Persons against their Masters and Instruments of
Fishing, they being actually serving therein lawfully.

The Stock and Profits thereof free of all Stems and Taxations.

F I N I S.

Page 61. 137. W. 2. 11. R. R. A. T. A.

Page 61. 39. For Exceptions: 1. Exemption: pag. 7. 1. 3. For hence: 1. Hook.

